THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has taken following measures to remedy the situation of its smooth supply:—

* Orders has been placed for higher capacity compressors.
* The total CNG stations would be increased to 87 by September 2001 and to 120 by March 2002.
* The existing 39 daughter stations are proposed to be upgraded to daughter booster stations progressively by December, 2001.
* Action has been initiated to lay 23 kms. long gas pipeline connecting Dhaula Kuan with GT Karnal Road.
* In addition, 50 retail outlets have been identified for co-locating CNG dispensing facility.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have taken a stand before the Hon'ble Supreme Court that unleaded and low benezene petrol and diesel with 0.05% max. sulphur content also satisfy the criteria of 'clean fuel' and as such vehicles may be allowed to run on these fuels in addition to CNG. These quality of fuels are already being supplied in Delhi.

Production of crude oil

1071. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of crude oil and natural gas produced in the country during the last three years, Company-wise both bublic and private;

(b) the details of Ninth Plan outlay for exploration;

(c) the estimated expenditure against the outlay so far;

(d) the enhanced reserve accretion targeted in Ninth Plan; and

(e) the achievement vis-a-vis the target and the reasons for shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The indigenous crude oil production during 1998-99 to 2000-01 has been as given below:

(Million Metric Tonne)

Company	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)	26.39	24.65	25.06
Oil India Limited (OIL)	3.28	3.26	3.29
Private/Joint Venture Companies	3.04	4.02	4.08
TOTAL	32.71	31.93	32.43

(b) and (c) The Ninth Plan (1997-98 to 2001-02) outlay for exploration and the expenditure against thereof so far by ONGC and OIL are as given below:

(Rs./Cr.)

Company	Plan Outlay	Expenditure as on 31.3.2001
ONGC	5628.00	5453.64
OIL	1473.73	919.29

Note: No outlay is fixed for private/JV companies in the Ninth Plan period.

(d) and (e) As against the targets for hydrocarbon in-place accretion of 523-722 MMT and 140 MMT by ONGC and OIL for the IX Plan period, the achievement upto 2000-01 has been of the order of 339 MMT and 68 MMT, for ONGC and OIL respectively. Also, the private/Joint Venture companies, for whom no target has been fixed in the IX Plan Period, have so far estalished a hydrocarbon in place of about 162 MMT.

Factors such as lower than planned exploratory drilling owing to environmental problems, delays in obtaining land, especially in the

North Eastern Region, no major discoveries etc. have adversely affected the reserve accretion. In so far as ONGC is concerned, the results of exploration activities so far indicate that the onland areas are doing well with positive growth in accretion pattern, where as a significant breakthrough in offshore areas is yet to be made. With moving over to deepwater in a focussed way and new leads obtained in offshore, ONGC expects good accretion in in-place hydrocarbon in the terminal year of IX Plan.

Benami LPG Agencies

1072. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that a number of LPG benami agencies are functioning throughout the country in violation of ownership norms fixed by Government;

(b) if so, the details of such agencies;

(c) whether Government have cancelled their allotment and kept these outlets for further allotment by the Oil Selection Board; and

(d) what other action Government have taken or propose to take against these benami agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Disbanding of OSBs

1073. PROF RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact, that this Ministry has disbanded all the 60 Oil Selection Boards set up by Government for allotting petrol pumps and LPG agencies throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what other alternative method Government have devised for allotting the petrol pumps and Gas agencies in the absence of Oil Selection Boards?